

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1631

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA

SUBJ: SPECIAL UNGA

FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM SCALI

1. HIGHLY TENTATIVE WRAP-UP OF SPECIAL UNGA INDICATES MEETING, DESPITE OPTIMISTIC RHETORIC, ENDED MORE AS CONFRONTATION THAN EXERCISE IN COOPERATION TO MEET URGENT NEEDS OF NATIONS MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY INCREASING PRICES. HARD-LINE NON-ALIGNED GROUPING, AIDED BY IRANIAN REP, RAMMED THROUGH ONE-SIDED SET OF PRINCIPLES, PLUS EQUALLY OBJECTIONABLE ACTION PROGRAM, DESPITE PROFESSED EAGERNESS TO AVOID OPEN BATTLE WITH THE DEVELOPED, INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES.

2. YOU HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY SEEN USUN REPORTING THAT SHORT-LIVED USG INITIATIVE WAS SIDETRACKED WITHOUT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. OPPONENTS INSISTED IT CAME TOO LATE, BUT SUSPICION THAT IT WAS DIVERSIONARY MANEUVER UNDOUBTDELY WAS FACTOR IN THIS NEGATIVE REACTION.

3. IN VIEW OF ROCK-LIKE REFUSAL TO ENTERTAIN AMENDMENTS, I LABELED OPERATION "STEAM ROLLER" WHICH DID NOT BIND USG BECAUSE OF NUMEROUS OBJECTIONABLE FEATURES. TO OFF-SET BELIEF USG INTENDS TO STAND ON SIDELINES, I PLEDGED AMERICAN EFFORT TO ASSIST MOST IMPOVERISHED, NEEDY NATIONS REGARDLESS OF UNSATISFACTORY OUTCOME OF THIS GA SESSION.

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4. INITIAL VIEW OF MY DELEGATION IS THAT OUR SKEPTICISM AND CAUTION OVER POSSIBLE NEGATIVE RESULTS OF THIS SPECIAL SESSION WAS AMPLY JUSTIFIED. SHOTGUN SPECIAL UNGA HAS NOT PROVIDED EFFECTIVE VEHICLE FOR DEALING WITH HIGHLY COMPLEX ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY ENERGY AND NEEDS OF HARDEST HIT.

5. ON POSITIVE SIDE WE SUCCEEDED IN FOCUSING ATTENTION OF MANY ON NEED TO MOVE SWIFTLY TO MEET EMERGENCY NEEDS RATHER THAN TO CONTINUE TIME-CONSUMING DEBATES ON HOW TO MOVE. IN SO DOING WE FORCED NATIONS MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED TO RECOGNIZE THEIR INTERESTS NOT ALWAYS IDENTICAL WITH THOSE OF ALGERIAN-LED RADICALS.

6. FOLLOW UP TO SESSION REMAINS A QUESTION MARK ECOSOC NOW IN SESSION AND COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW UP LOP-SIDED ALGERIAN PLAN. WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN AMERICAN FLEXIBILITY IN SUPPORT OF MULTILATERAL EFFORTS. WE SHOULD AT SAME TIME EXPRESS READINESS TO MOVE BILATERALLY, AS WE HAVE ALWAYS ACTED IN MOMENTS OF CRISIS IN THE PAST.

7. MY BELIEF IS THAT OUR INITIATIVE CAME AT LEAST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS TOO LATE. IF WE HAD MOVED FORWARD SATURDAY AFTERNOON AFTER YOUR APPROVAL AND STAYED ON COURSE, WE COULD HAVE EMERGED AS UNDERSTANDING CHAMPIONS OF PROBLEMS BESETTING POOR NATIONS. DELAYED PRESENTATION, WHILE IMPRESSION TO SOME, AROUSED TOO MUCH SUSPICION OF OUR MOTIVES.

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